

CLAIMS

1. An organ-region-indication system incorporated in an electronic endoscope system in which an endoscope image is displayed as a motion image on a monitor in accordance with a video signal produced therein, said indication system comprising:

an organ-region-image data base, constituted on the basis of an organ map, in which a plurality of reference data indicating distinctive organ-regions of said organ map and a plurality of image data representing said distinctive organ-regions are correspondingly stored;

a still-image-capturing system that retrieves a frame of still image data as referential image data from the video signal at suitable regular time intervals;

a searching system that searches said organ-region-image data base for image data which coincides with said referential image data after the retrieval of the frame of still image data from said video signal by said still-image-capturing system; and

a reference-data-display-control system that displays corresponding reference data on said monitor only when the image data, which coincides with the referential image data, is found by said searching system, whereby an endoscope image displayed as the motion image on said monitor is indicated by said corresponding reference data displayed thereon.

2. An organ-region-indication system as set forth in claim

1, wherein said reference-data-display-control system comprises
a canceling system that cancels a preceding display of the
reference data on said monitor when the image data, which coincides
with the referential image data, is not found by said searching
5 system.

3. An organ-region-indication system as set forth in claim
1, wherein said reference-data-display-control system comprises
a forcible-canceling system that forcibly cancels a display of
reference data on said monitor even if the image data, which
10 coincides with the referential image data, is found by said
searching system.

4. An organ-region-indication system as set forth in claim
1, wherein said searching system comprises a searching-area-
designating system in which an area to be searched is designated
15 in said organ-region-image data base.

5. An organ-region-indication system as set forth in claim
1, further comprising a data-base-renovating system that renovates
said organ-region-image data base on the basis of the referential
image data when the image data coincides with the referential image
20 data.

6. An organ-region-indication system as set forth in claim
1, wherein said searching system comprises:

a reading system that reads image data in succession from
said organ-region-image data base; and

25 a determining system that determines whether the read image

data coincides with said referential image data.

7. An organ-region-indication system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said determining system comprises:

a numerical-evaluating system that numerically evaluates
5 a degree of coincidence between the read image data and the referential image data; and

a comparison system that compares the degree of coincidence
with a threshold, thereby determining that there is a coincidence
between the read image data and the referential image data when
10 the degree of coincidence is more than said threshold, and thereby
determining that there is no coincidence between the read image
data and the referential image data when the degree of coincidence
is less than said threshold.

8. An organ-region-indication system as set forth in claim
15 7, wherein said determining system further comprises a threshold-
altering system that alters a value of said threshold.

9. An organ-region-indication system as set forth in claim
1, wherein each image data, to be stored in said organ-region-
image data base, is subjected to feature-extraction, and the
20 referential image data is subjected to the same feature-extraction
as each image data.